

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 22, 2010

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. WORK SESSION

1. School Building Project

Town Manager Matt Hart stated the purpose of the meeting is to make sure all additional information needed for the decision making process is made available to Council members.

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan will provide information on the various options over the full twenty year period. This information will include debt service, tax rates, site acquisition costs, timing of school openings, the cost of an option where no land purchase is required, energy costs, transportation costs and other costs and savings over time. This information will be available at the December 13, 2010 meeting.

Director of Planning Gregory Padick reported on the site walk over the property under consideration near Goodwin School. The preliminary determination is that placing one of the two schools in the two-school option on the expanded site would be feasible. Staff has spoken to the property owner but no offer or decision has been made. Mr. Padick stated that a complete analysis of the site would require a two-school prototype and further engineering studies. The cost would be about \$20,000. The cost to acquire the land would be between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000. The Director of Finance will inquire as to how much of the acquisition costs would be reimbursable.

Mr. Allen, owner of the property being considered, participated in the site walk and stated that he would be amenable to additional engineering tests on the property.

Members of the Council discussed the most advantageous way to approach the unanswered questions including overall cost, the cost of renovations, the prioritization of the Mansfield Middle School renovations, the preferred number of schools and suitable locations.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to authorize the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$25,000 for a study to analyze the sites near Goodwin School as identified by the Director of Planning and to begin additional engineering studies on those sites.

The motion failed with Mr. Kochenburger, Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Schaefer in favor and Ms. Moran, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Keane. Ms. Lindsey and Mayor Paterson opposed.

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Staff will call Rick Lawrence of Lawrence Associates to see if removing some of the renovations at the Middle School and removing some of the square footage at the elementary schools would lower the cost. Mr. Lawrence will also be asked if using a different quality of materials would significantly lower the cost.

Mayor Paterson asked members to forward any questions they might have to the Town Manager prior to the meeting on December 13th.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments offered.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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